

Washington, D.C. 20505

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17 September 1981

The Honorable Edward P. Boland  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ed:

This is the note I promised you at our session this morning about a gap in the instruments the U.S. has available to influence the political climate which prevails around the world. In country after country, our military, diplomatic and informational capabilities have been insufficient to prevail against totalitarian forces which grind down and ultimately eliminate free institutions and political movements which support them.


Although the presence of strong democratic pluralist movements can be crucial to U.S. interests, the U.S. Government has not developed a capability for strengthening such movements where they are now weak and aiding in their creation where they are non-existent.

We have four traditional instruments of foreign policy: diplomatic, economic, military and information programs. We lack a newly recognized policy instrument--aiding friendly political organizations abroad.

As we know too well, the Soviet Union puts high priority on this kind of political aid, spending huge amounts supporting Communist parties throughout the world. We know that if all Soviet political aid programs closed down tomorrow, few non-ruling Communist movements could maintain their present level of influence strictly through their own resources.

West Germany has created institutions for assistance to political organizations abroad. Each of West Germany's major political parties has a foundation that assists political, labor, and civic groups in other countries. The Socialist Party (SPD) has its Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Christian Democratic Party (CDU) has the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Liberal Democrats (FDP) have the Naumann Foundation. Each of these party-sponsored foundations receives public appropriations of West German government funds to assist their ideological counterparts throughout the world. Thus, West Germany is equipped to assist not just one political actor in each country, but to help all those that fall within the democratic pluralist spectrum. I attach some information sheets which indicate what these German instrumentalities do.

Yours,

  
William J. CaseyDISTRIBUTION

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